

Arts Festival

TJC prepares for month-long celebration of artistic ability.

Review on p.6

Movie Review

Beauty and The Beast brings nostalgic Disney surprises.

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THE DRUM BEAT

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Former student's life remembered

Rebecca Najera
Editor-in-Chief

TJC alumna Fawn Combs, and her grandmother Brenda Combs were found dead in their home after suffering gunshot wounds inflicted by Fawn's grandfather and Brenda's husband, Terry Combs. After shooting his wife and granddaughter, Terry turned the gun on himself, taking his own life.



Courtesy Photo

Community members were devastated by the news, as were some of Fawn's friends.

"She didn't deserve this," sophomore Kellen McFarland had posted on Facebook shortly after learning of the death of her friend.

Fawn and McFarland had attended the same high school. From

"I don't think anybody had anything bad to say about Fawn,"

-Kellen McFarland
Sophomore

being in band together to binge watching Netflix shows, McFarland and Fawn had become close over the years.

"I don't think anybody had anything bad to say about Fawn," said McFarland. "She was just that type of person. She was always kind and caring."

Although Fawn only attended TJC for the fall of 2015, she's remembered by the ones she met,

— see FAWN page 9 —

Frisbees soaring to support East Texas no-kill pet shelter

Colten Sneed
News Editor

The Humane Society's Pets Fur People will be hosting the Tyler Azalea Disc Dog and Disc Golf Championship. The family-friendly event is being held at Lindsey Park in Tyler.

"Funding for nonprofit organizations is always a challenge and an event like the one we are sponsoring serves two purposes," said Gayle Helms, executive director of The Humane Society's Pets Fur People. "It not only raises capital, but it also raises awareness for our organization."

Starting at 9 p.m. on April 1, 35 highly-trained disc dogs from around the nation will gather and compete at Soccer Field 12 in Lindsey Park. Among the dogs competing is "Z," the 14th-ranked dog in the nation. She is the canine companion of Bill McFarlin, who is

confident in his pooch.

"Z is a champion, there's no doubt about it. But she'll have her work cut out for her to beat some of these dogs that are coming. I know these dogs, and there are some amazing performers in the mix. They have flips and jumps, and great speed," said McFarlin.

Canines won't be the only participants for the disc events. Disc golfers will be joining the disc dogs this year. They will be able to participate in two tournaments, one in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Accompanying the tournaments this year will also be a "How to Play Disc Golf" clinic, and a "Closest to the Pin" competition. These events are to encourage spectator participation at the event and draw more interest in the sport.

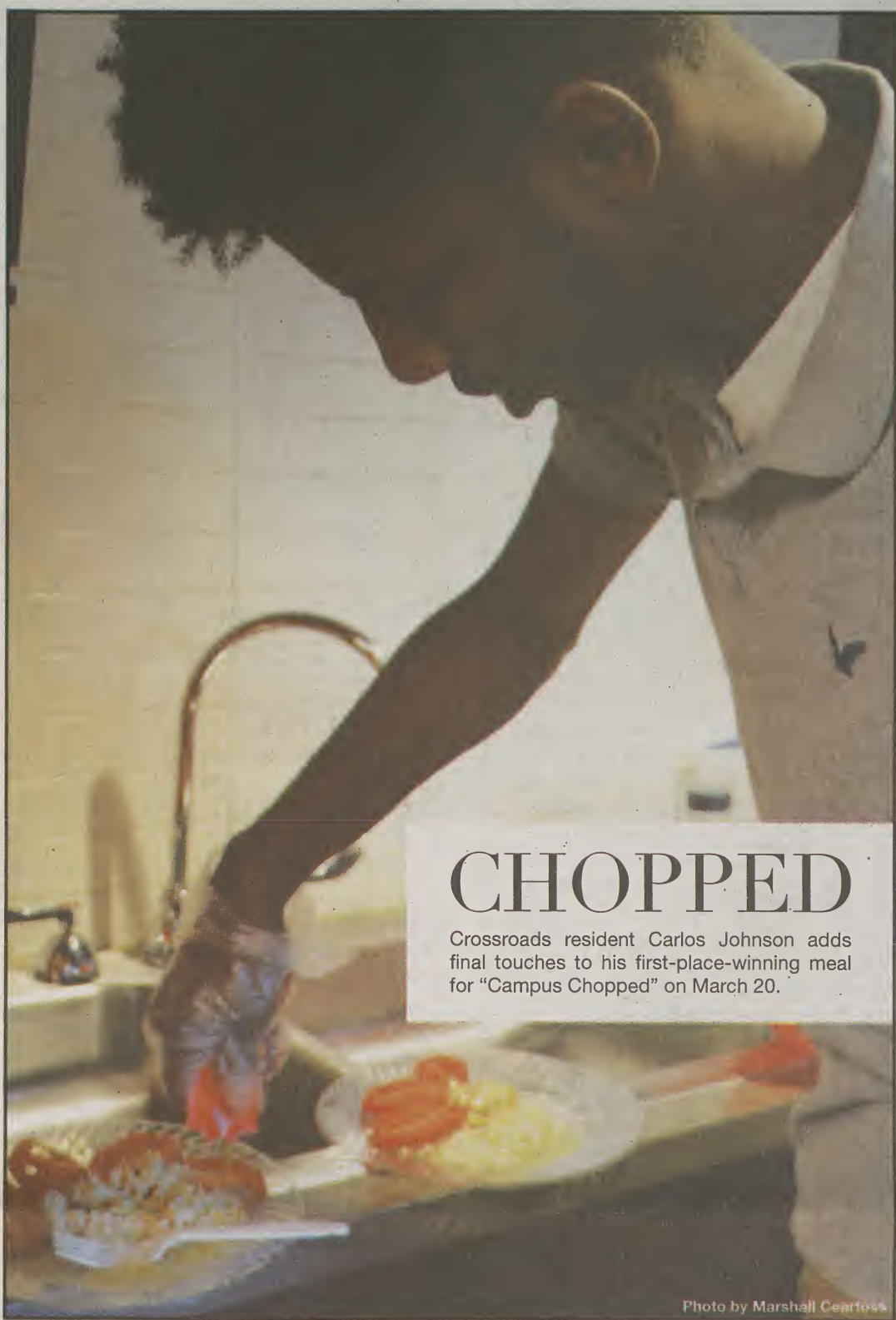
"Our disc golf players' community is growing every season. This is a fun

— see PETS page 10 —



Photo by Colten Sneed

PUPPER DOES A HECKIN' CATCH Rudy, a one-year-old terrier mix, is one of the many adoptable dogs who will be helped by the disc tournaments.



CHOPPED

Crossroads resident Carlos Johnson adds final touches to his first-place-winning meal for "Campus Chopped" on March 20.

Photo by Marshall Cearfoss

Students try out new cooking competition

"Chopped" spin-off tests uncommon dinner ideas

Bárbara Arroio
Web Editor

It's time for students to put on their aprons and show how good their cooking skills are. The Center for Residential Life & Housing hosts TJC's first ever "Campus Chopped."

"Our RA chair went to the Regional Leadership Conference, and schools present all the programs they're doing for their campus. We got to talk with other schools about some fun stuff they were doing and when we were driving back I had the idea to organize a 'Chopped,'" said Assistant Director for Residential Life Patti Light. "I wanted it to make it like 'college reality,' with just a microwave."

The first round of the competition will select a chef from each hall and only four people per hall can compete. Each competitor will be provided with a basket filled with microwave-friendly ingredients that can serve a full meal.

"The competitors will all have a basket with ingredients and 20 minutes to cook, and then they'll be judged by some student leaders and hall staff from other halls," said Light. "The students who win will go to the finale."

The finale is scheduled for April 3, in the Apache Rooms at Rogers Student Center, with a grand prize of 100 Apache Bucks. There



Photo by Marshall Cearfoss

ALL BUT CHICKEN Freshman Jesse Drabek mixes his rice, honey and tomato to make his impromptu masterpiece.

— see CHOPPED page 9 —

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Guest Column



Victoria Dickson
Las Mascaras

Keep working and stay sane

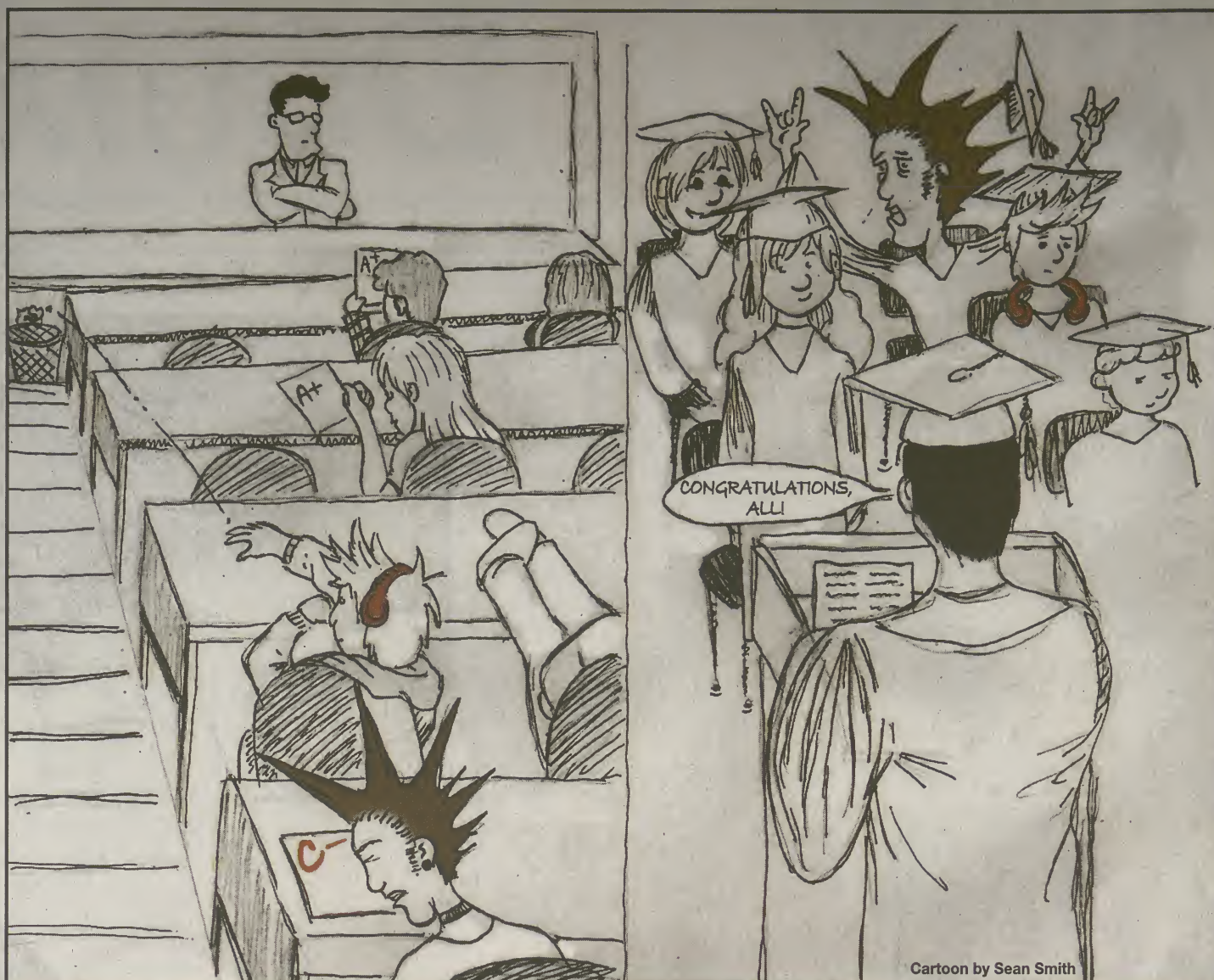
If you know me, you know I like to keep busy. Most the school-year I juggle work, school, and multiple extracurricular activities and organizations. Sound familiar? College students always seem to stay busy, whether it's by choice- as it is for me- or by your teacher who assigns way too many essays. I, for one, enjoy the fast-paced, busy schedule. I am often asked the same question: How do you manage it all?

To be honest, time-management was never my forte, but somewhere in my first semester at TJC I realized I needed to be disciplined to stay on track and enjoy the schooling process. Heads up, college students: you'll need to be disciplined too. Even if you haven't strategized your way of managing your life yet, you're going to need to figure it out soon—especially if you plan to continue your education at a four-year university. So, if you need help getting started on time-management, or if you just need a good kick in the butt to get you going again, this is for you. Over the past two years I joined the bandwagon on some simple tips and tricks that keep me on top of my hectic schedule, and I hope they help you, even just a little.

First off, a general to-do list. I know it's simple and probably goes without saying, but to-do lists have saved my life on many accounts. Sometimes I'll make a list specifically for all my homework and when it's due, and other times I will lump together every errand, workout and meeting based on the day it's due. I'm a huge procrastinator, so I will often mark an assignment as due one day ahead of when it's actually due... just to be safe. Having a list to work on and boxes to check off keep me focused and keep me motivated. Sometimes I treat it like a game: How many boxes can I check off today?

Eventually, at some point my first semester, I caved and bought a planner. At first, I was wary of being the type of person who runs around with a planner and a

— see SANITY page 9 —



Cartoon by Sean Smith

Editorial

“Passing” grades are creating a lazy generation

What standards do we really hold for college students? Yes, there is a grade and requirements for graduating, but is that enough? We've grown accustomed to a public education system where “enough” has become a joke. In a classroom, students in the front may answer “two” and the ones in the back may answer “four,” yet even the incorrect students may very well end up with a degree. After we graduate, our degrees will all look the same to employers. Granted, those who truly strive to succeed will most likely be involved with extracurriculars that will stand out to employers. But the main issue remains relevant: It shouldn't be so easy for people to waste time in college while still receiving a “passing” grade.

Recently, TJC did something about it. After a few arrests of students living in dorms, the school decided to raise the GPA requirement for on-campus living to 2.5, along with making background checks more frequent.

This is what the collegiate community needs to do. We understand that there certainly are students who genuinely try to succeed in college, yet, for one reason or another are unable to maintain a high GPA. With that said, most students who have GPAs inching near the 2.0 mark or lower are probably not trying.

Some may feel sympathetic towards those that are struggling to pass, but what about sympathy for the rest of the student body? Have you ever been in a group project, and that one person who didn't care brought the whole group down? Have you ever tried to enroll in an important class, but it was full? Or what about the faculty? Imagine how frustrating it must be to an instructor who is forced to waste time on someone who is disrespectful and doesn't care.

Studies have shown that students who live in dorms are more likely to have better grades than those who commute. This makes

sense, seeing as how on-campus students don't have to find a parking space every morning and can walk anywhere on campus within five minutes. So, with that information, students who live on campus yet still sustain painfully low GPAs have no one to blame but themselves.

Concentrating on school is difficult enough without the influence of people who want to do everything but go to class. Being kept up at night by people goofing off or walking into a hall that has more smoke than a Grateful Dead concert is not conducive to learning. With higher standards, the situation can be completely different. Having friends and roommates that are serious about school can be extremely beneficial. Partnering up and having study groups can make working on homework easy and even enjoyable.

Another factor in this issue is that many of these students probably receive financial aid from the school. Although it's the students who will ultimately end up with the debt, it still affects other dedicated students. That money (and the dorm, for that matter) could have been given to someone else; someone who is driven enough to maintain a higher GPA.

Let's address the elephant in the room: crime. We are a campus community, not south-central L.A. There was an armed robbery, shooting and drug offense all in one semester at the residence halls. Thankfully, the school listened and has made the appropriate changes to housing standards.

In conclusion, the school made the right decision. Much of the student-caused crime on campus is committed by students who clearly are not here for an education. Reserving student dorms for people who know their purpose and will dedicate themselves to their profession once in the workforce is monumental for continuing a healthy society.

It's okay to not have it all figured out | Don't lose sight of your future

Column



Nancy Gonzalez
Photo Editor

Growing up, I always thought I knew what I wanted. I thought I knew what school I wanted to go to after my high school graduation, what I wanted to major in and what I want to do after college. It wasn't until my senior year of high school that I realized that maybe I have no idea what I want to do with my future. Now as a college student, I still have no idea what profession I want to work in. This can get scary sometimes. I never

wanted to admit to this, because like most people, I like others thinking that I have my life together and figured out. However, that is not always the case. I have no idea what I want to do with my life. As a psychology major, I have several options to choose from. But I feel as though I am not as passionate about this as I thought I would be. I love psychology and the complexity of the human mind, but I am not sure it is enough.

After talking to friends and classmates, I realized that a lot of us don't know what we want to do after graduating high school. Some may have an idea; others may not have given it thought. However, this is what makes the college experience so great. Starting out at a junior college can help. It's not as costly as attending a university and helps you knock out your core classes all while learning to figure yourself out.

If you're reading this and feel the way I do, know that it is okay to not know what you want out of life. It will come to you when you least expect it. Live life, enjoy the moment and take as many opportunities as you can. In the end, everything will fall into place.

Column



Symone Sheppard
Staff Writer

With the end of the semester right around the corner, as well as graduation, I keep looking toward the future in anticipation. I know a lot of my colleagues in the newsroom are planning on going to various universities, and I am still kind of at a loss at how I want to continue my education.

I have been reading as soon as I was able to speak, and writing shortly afterward. I've always known writing has been a passion of

mine since a young age. I knew I wanted to incorporate it into my career somehow. When I started Tyler Junior College, I started as an English major only to realize that mass communication was more appropriate for me. In a perfect world, I would love to attend culinary school right after college, but I also have to think of my expenses that keep me from doing so at the moment. With that in mind, I know I am going to try to find jobs related to my degree so I can at least keep heading in the right direction.

I also have a passion for cooking and food in general. I intend to merge the two passions together into a career as a food critic. While I have a set destination for my goals, I still am trying to figure out how I'm getting there. I'm a returning student, so it did take me longer to graduate Tyler Junior College than someone who studied straight through. I know when I attend my next college, I have to be sure that it's the right one for me, be it a university or culinary school.

Even so, with everything kind of falling into place quickly, I know I have to keep

— see FUTURE page 9 —

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School receives makeover with tree planting

Volunteers partner with city of Tyler to add new scenery around campus

Colten Sneed
News Editor

Colleges pride themselves with a good-looking campus, and TJC is a prime example. On March 5, many organizations, students and faculty worked together to make TJC more vibrant by planting 50 trees around campus.

The planning of the event started when a local arborist contacted Mark Gartman, the associate director of facilities. Once the two were in contact with each other, they reached out to Phil Weber, supervisor of landscaping.

"The city of Tyler, especially when Barbara Bass was mayor, they had an initiative to plant trees. Then we as a housing facility got involved by planting one or two trees every year," said Aukse Harris, assistant director for residential life and housing.

As the city of Tyler began to grow, they started running out of room to plant trees. As the room for more trees became smaller and smaller, city officials contacted the local colleges for some help.

"Tyler officials reached out to TJC, UT Tyler and Texas College offering to work with colleges and planting trees because it is ultimately is still Tyler, which is such a brilliant idea and partnership. So the arborist got with us and Weber, and I'm sure Mark [Gartman] had some kind of role with it," said Harris "They selected the 50 spots around campus to plant the trees and then began planning the event."

With all this planning, the housing department had little time to prepare and advertise the event to students. It took about three weeks for the event to be organized by everyone behind the scenes. Even with the little time they had to get everything assembled, there were still plenty of donations.

"We were really in a time crunch. But the city of Tyler donated half of the trees, we purchased 25 as well. They also found companies who donated mulch and the stakes to put around the trees to assist in the growth," said Harris.

Campus organizations that assisted with the event were the Green Committee

and Residential Life. TJC student athletes and Student Life also helped with the event as volunteer planters.

"UT Tyler representatives were present, so next year when it is hosted there we will definitely be in attendance to show our support. There has been a unique partnership created," said Harris.

On Sunday morning, Harris was skeptical about the event even happening due to the weather. After weeks and weeks of preparation, rain looked like it might have ruined the day.

"I thought 'Oh my. What about all the trees and equipment?' We had this whole thing planned out and now it's raining. But we decided we will move on and proceed," said Harris. "Apparently it was perfect for planting trees; it was perfect tree planting weather. At the actual time we planted, it barely misted."

For the almost 200 volunteers involved, food from Dairy Queen was offered. As well as cookies, water and reusable plastic bags. Bags of seeds were also given out by the Green Committee. Before getting to work on the trees, leaders had to show how to plant the trees.

"The city brought in people who ended up being leaders to show how to plant trees. I never realized how aggressive you have to be to plant the trees. Once we learned how to plant, we split up into smaller groups and finished in no time," said Harris.

Diana Karol, director of auxiliary services, believes the event was an overall success in every possible way.

"I think it was an amazing afternoon in so many aspects for the campus, of course, because we got 50 brand new trees. The students, faculty and staff who participated; we had lots come and volunteer. It was good to see everyone come and work together," said Karol. "It was also successful because it was a joint effort with the city of Tyler. I'd like to see more and more events where we come together and work as a team."

After playing their part in this tree planting event, the student and faculty volunteers will leave behind a legacy that will remain after their years at TJC.



DOWN AND DIRTY Freshmen Dexter Pringle (left) and Daquaylyn Thomas (right) assist in planting a tree across from the student garden near Genecov. These are two of the near 200 volunteers who helped plant trees around campus Sunday, March 5.

Renovations around campus provide for a safer environment

Marshall Cearfoss
Managing Editor



Courtesy Photo

BEFORE AND AFTER (Above) The bushes located outside the Rogers Student Center were overgrown and made it easy for people to do nefarious things. (Below) The Civility Task Force had them trimmed to four feet tall.



Courtesy Photo

Since the fall of 2010, TJC has taken numerous steps towards a safer, more civil campus.

"As far as I could tell, we were the first in the nation to do something like this," said President Mike Metke.

Prior to 2010, the school had gained a fairly negative reputation for safety. Significant drug and gang activity had become somewhat of a norm for the campus. When Metke assumed the position in 2006, he knew something had to change.

"[Shortly after] I got here, we opened up Ornelas in 2007. There were fights, there were problems, there was graffiti and vandalism and all kinds of stuff going on," said Metke. "Probably no more than other colleges, but it was new to me and it really had gotten to the point that it wasn't acceptable."

It was at that point when TJC's healthy reputation was in need of a revival.

"At first, I thought, well maybe this is what it's like," said Metke. "Maybe this is part of the territory. But I didn't like it. I worked with Chief Melton, then approved an undercover drug sting, because it just seemed like that was a problem."

During the arrests for that drug bust, Metke noticed that almost every person arrested was a non-student.

"... So then a lightbulb came on for me," said Metke.

He then was inspired to incorporate the lanyards students and faculty now wear everyday.

"This is kind of the way we tell you're part of the family," said Metke. "If somebody's not wearing a lanyard, we assume that they're visiting and we first try to help them. We see if they need a map or a day pass. That gives cause to talk to somebody. And if they're not here for an educational purpose, then they'll be talking to somebody else -- namely, our police."

Another major change for the wellbeing of the campus was the employment of 20 full-time police officers.

"We hire guys like me that are retired," said Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Tom Johnson. "It's because we don't want them trying to put everybody in jail. Young officers have that tendency to want to go get 'em."

Along with the boosted police force, ambassadors also joined the team.

"We have our ambassadors which, most of them are ministers in town, because during the weekdays,

they're free. All of our ambassadors are older guys who want to help," said Johnson.

One of the biggest improvements to the campus was greater awareness, along with stricter consequences, of drug offenses.

"Crime doesn't go away, it just finds new locations," said Johnson. "Right now, we've got it where they don't want to be caught with dope on our campus. If we catch you with dope here, it's on school property, so we can enhance what may have been a misdemeanor into a felony."

Johnson has joined with the city police department to effectively use what resources they have for fighting drug use in the dorms.

"Once every semester, we work with Tyler PD and Smith County, and we run drug dogs. Nobody knows when -- I don't even know when. ... The only person who knows is the chief of police. We tell the students that up front," said Johnson.

The look of the campus also underwent a serious revamp. Johnson calls this "crime prevention through environmental design." This technique was nothing unfamiliar to him, as he had gained much knowledge in his years at the Houston Police Department.

"If you reduce the opportunity, they're less likely to do it," said Johnson.

The major changes in this step were to trim all of the bushes down to four feet tall, install fences around the flower beds in front of RSC (drug activity was frequent when people would sit on the ledges) and spread the tables throughout campus. Along with putting more distance between the tables, they also moved them farther from the walking paths and placed lights by each one.

"We still have as much seating as we've ever had, but we spaced it out," said Johnson. "That's the key to it. If you allow lots of people together, bad things can happen. But if you spread them out, people are less likely to commit an act because they're visible. People like being in crowds where they blend in."

Soon after these changes, the statistic numbers for crimes actually rose for a brief time. Not because of any increase in crime, but because the larger police force and more open campus began catching more criminal activity. Since then, the numbers have all been reduced greatly. Other improvements to the campus included nearly doubling the amount of security cameras and banning smoking on campus.

For detailed statistics on campus crimes, go to <https://www.tjc.edu/campuspolice/reports> for the annual Clery reports, provided by the school.

Softball team sets tone with new faces

Lady Apaches are revamped and rolling in first season together

Benjamin Savallo
Sports Editor

Two years after the birth of the TJC softball program, it has gone through a complete and total rebirth; new coaching staff, all new lineup and no returning players. But the Nationally ranked No. 15 lady Apaches are rolling over the competition, like they've played together for years.

"I'm new to the program, every single player currently on the team is new to the program—we just want to try and build a culture that we believe is successful on and off the field," said Head Softball Coach Maria Winn.

"...we just want to try and build a culture that we believe is successful on and off the field."

—Maria Winn
Head Softball Coach

TJC currently stands 26-11 after two victories in Athens, TX against Trinity Valley Community College Saturday, March 18. With those two wins, the Apaches completed an undefeated four-game road trip that began in Paris, TX against Paris Junior College Thursday, March 16.

The lady Apaches are currently in the midst of a six-game win streak heading into their next match up. Although softball can become a game of momentum, which these ladies clearly are in possession of, Coach Winn's team doesn't seem to be caught up in the action.

"That's your motivation when you put

"But we really want you to have the opportunity when you leave Tyler Junior College as a softball player to be successful in life."

—Maria Winn
Head Softball Coach

your uniform on; that's motivation to be successful and to go out and do your best. We don't really talk about streaks, we don't really try to talk about getting caught up in anything. We go out and our biggest opponent is ourselves," said Winn.

According to Coach Winn, the sophomores that have transferred to TJC have played a big role in keeping this team on the right track with the right mentality in all facets of the game.

Sophomore Pitcher Kelly Madrones, has been a standout leader since the start of the season for the Apaches.

"Kelly Madrones by far in the pitching circle, she picked up her sixteenth win over the weekend and a save," said Coach Winn. "She's done a really nice job of going out and doing what she needs to do."

An unlikely leader for the team on the offensive side of the ball as well as in the outfield, has picked up the slack for time she has missed.

"Haille Weber has missed seven games for us but still leads the team in hits. As an outfielder, I think she's done a great job with the young outfield that we have," said Coach Winn.

Weber leads the team with 47 hits this season and is also tied for first in homeruns with seven alongside Makenzie Goswick.

The Sophomore Utility player from

Whitewright, TX has had no problem taking up the leadership role off the field.

"And then Tucker Carraway is just a young lady that doesn't see a lot of time on the field but what she does in the weight room, what she does at practice you can't describe it," said Winn. "She makes everybody around her better."

This is where a lot of this chemistry has come from that this new team has bonded over; off the field, in the classroom and in the community.

The players came together and set goals for the team such as quality at-bats, team GPA and team fielding percentage. All these have been set into place for this program to help give them a chance to compete and put

themselves in a chance to compete.

"They wanted to make a commitment to go to school, to make a commitment to academics, to make a commitment to community service projects and to be servants in the community and not just be here as a student athlete," said Coach Winn. "But we really want you to have the opportunity when you leave Tyler Junior College as a softball player to be successful in life."

Having the focus not completely on the statistics or the wins and losses may be the key to early success of the rebranded softball program. The ladies look to continue their success on the road against Angelina College in Lufkin, TX on Saturday, March 25.



Photo by Benjamin Savallo

HIGH HEAT Sophomore Pitcher Kelly Madrones serves up a pitch to the opposing batter from Bossier Parish Community College during their 9-3 win on Saturday March 11, 2017.

Player Profile: Jordan Trahan

Tyler Trant
Staff Writer

He steps up to the plate from the on-deck circle as "Boombastic" by Shaggy blared from the speakers at Mike Carter Field.

He's stepping into the batter's box, knocks the dirt loose off of his cleats with his bat, then shakes his arms to loosen up and relax.

Most athletes either believe in superstitions or have rituals. Jordan Trahan, the designated hitter/first baseman for Apache baseball, keeps a dollar in his right pocket when he plays.

The story behind it started last year accidentally. He bought something before a game and put the change in his back pocket of his baseball pants then forgot about it. He had an exceptional game, so he did it for the next game and the rest of the games to follow. That is how his as well as many others rituals begin.

Another thing that athletes are particularly peculiar about is the number that they wear proudly on their jersey. The story behind his number, 34, is a common one. The number is worn by the famous power-hitter David Ortiz, or as some people know him, "Big Papi." Jordan is such a fan of Ortiz that he mimics Ortiz's batting stance. The only difference between the two is that

Trahan wiggles his bat a bit.

"I've been watching him ever since I was young, ever since I could remember when I got into baseball. I've been trying to mimic everything about him," said Trahan.

What pushes Jordan every day is his mom, Tina Trahan. She is the reason why Jordan decided to continue to play college baseball. He wants to repay his mom for everything she had done for him and he wants to prove the people that didn't believe in him wrong.

Before every game, his mom texts him to tell him to do the best he can and to trust himself out there on the field.

Coming from a small town outside of Houston, Trahan excelled at football and baseball in which he received all-district honors his junior and senior year for both sports. He also received an invitation to an all-star football game his senior year.

In baseball, he was one of the top hitters in the district and one of the top home run hitters in the Houston area. During his senior year, he hit 4 home runs while having a .357 hitting average.

Trahan was bigger than most of his classmates in high school. He played defensive tackle for the football team, so transitioning to baseball and seeing how athletic he really was surprised the coaches.

— see BASEBALL page 5 —



Photo by Benjamin Savallo

HOT POTATO Freshman Utility Player McKenzie Peet shows off her quick hands to throw out the baserunner from Bossier Parish Community College in the 9-3 win on Saturday, March 11, 2017.

What are the qualifications for what makes a sport?

Column



Benjamin Savallo
Sports Editor

When sports come to mind, people tend to think of football, basketball, baseball, hockey and all the other major sports out there. But what qualifies these activities as sports? Is it the physicality of the game, the competitive nature of it or the fact that each of these activities require a specific type of skills for each one?

A sport is defined as any activity that

includes physical exertion and skill that which an individual or a team competes against others for entertainment.

Someone once told me that anything in the Olympics is considered a sport. But I can't agree with that completely. Baseball used to be in the Olympics but has since been terminated from the games while something such as Ribbon is an event. While it is competitive and takes some physical skills, I can't bring myself to say that dancing around twirling a piece of ribbon is a sport. So I continued the search for an answer.

Growing up surrounded by the world of sports, I only looked at anything you could do professionally as a sport. Some would argue that cheerleading is a sport, which I agree wholeheartedly that it can be, but I looked over at the sideline of football games and wondered how is that a sport? Well maybe not that type of cheer but I've seen competitive cheer and I understand why they would make the argument that it is. Also in high school, I was quite the

band nerd. I played it all in the realm of percussion; from the marimba to the bass drum, and from the timpani to the snare drum. And let me tell you, I spent a lot of hours in the hot sun sweating my butt off trying to learn sets and spots while yearning for a drink of water. We didn't just do this so the halftime show would sound clean and look pretty. We did this to prepare for the competition at the end of the year, which led me to believe this too was considered a sport.

This then brought me to the debate of whether video gaming was eligible for the category of sport or not. While some ask the question how this could be considered a sport when there is nothing physical about it? You might have heard of something called the MLB, or Major League Baseball. There's also a thing called MLG, or Major League Gaming. That's right, there is a league where professional gamers go to compete against one another. That's exactly what athletes of baseball, football, track and others do in their own

leagues is it not? But then the question remains, where's the physical activity? Depending on how you look at it, there are certain reasons that make gaming physical. I'm quite the avid gamer and I sometimes find myself sweating when I finish a tight game of 2K or Madden. Although it may come from the intensity or anxiety of the game and not anything physical I still need breaks in between games.

Video gaming still is up for debate in my mind as a sport. I do not believe anything you do while sitting in a chair should be considered as such. However, people all have their own opinions and views but for me, I can somewhat piece together what makes a sport a sport. It comes down to the competitiveness of the game as well as the physical toll it takes on the body. Anything that involves physical activity or can be considered as exercise while doing competitively is what will be a sport to me. Unfortunately, that means Ribbon must be considered a sport.

BASEBALL

continued from page 4

“He was very athletic for being a big man. He was a great first baseman that could move and had range,” said Jordan’s high school head coach Bobby Little.

Even though he excelled at football and baseball, he didn’t get any true scholarship offers out of high school, but that didn’t deter him.

“I’ve always told my athletes it’s not the amount of offers that you receive, you just need one school to like you as a ball player/person and go play ball,” said Little.

Growing up, many people were wanting him to go in a different athletic direction, but it was his mom who knew that his true passion was baseball.

The stigma coming to a junior college is that either grades aren’t good enough for a D1 school, or that person has been a part of trouble throughout high school. But for Trahan, coming to a junior college was all about him showcasing his skills to put his name out there for bigger schools to see him and his abilities.

“But coming to Tyler is honestly one of the best decisions I have made. I love the town and the people here,” said Trahan.

Coming from Dayton, TX to Tyler, he felt like he went from being in the shadows to people knowing his name and kids asking for his autograph.

“Just knowing that younger kids are a fan of me and they look up to me as a star is a true blessing,” said Trahan.

Putting in this much time and work,

the ultimate goal for Trahan is to eventually make it into Major Leagues.

With this success, the more schools will come to look at him. Trahan hit 10 homeruns with 62 runs batted in with a .318 average last season for the Apache’s, and with the success of Tyler Junior College lately, there are many schools that come to scout baseball games already.

With Jordan smashing almost every ball that gets thrown at him, he has several schools currently looking at him, but the only offers he’s been given have been from Grambling State and Texas Southern. Receiving offers like this after having none in high school is a testament that Jordan’s work is really paying off.

“When we recruited Trahan, he was a really raw talent; he had raw power. So we are trying to see that raw power become a little more mature,” said Head Baseball Coach Doug Wren.

As fans and teammates cheer him on when he steps into the batter’s box waiting for the pitch, he thinks of that dollar and then suddenly there is the ball leaving his bat. Before his bat hits the ground he is out of the batter’s box running towards first base.

“Safe,” yelled the umpire as Jordan slides into second.

As he is dusting himself off, he feels his back pocket just to make sure that lucky dollar is still there.

Apache Scoreboard

Baseball

T @UT-Tyler March 13, 2017	4	TJC TCS March 18, 2017	8 4
TJC TCS March 18, 2017	3 0	TJC LeTourneau March 20, 2017	11 1
TJC LeTourneau March 20, 2017	14 3	TJC @Houston CC March 24, 2017	

Softball

TJC Paris Junior March 16, 2017	10 0	TJC Paris Junior March 16, 2017	4 3
TJC TVCC March 18, 2017	11 0	TJC TVCC March 18, 2017	9 4

Men’s Tennis

TJC @ASA March 12, 2017	5 4	TJC Jacksonville March 25, 2017	
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Women’s Tennis

TJC @ASA March 12, 2017	5 4	TJC Jacksonville March 25, 2017	
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For more information on scheduling, games or teams go to: apacheathletics.com



Photo by Benjamin Savallo

SMASH HITS Sophomore Designated Hitter Jordan Trahan connects with the ball for one of his multiple hits in the series opener on Saturday, March 11, 2017 against Arkansas Baptist College.

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Arts Festival taking over the month of April



Photo by Brianna Harmon

ONE STROKE AT A TIME Engineering major Deandre Newton maps out his painting for Derrick White's art class as he is in the beginning stages, Monday, March 20.

Art work will get annihilated in upcoming Thunderdome competition

Brianna Harmon
Arts Editor

Since the release of the Bell Tower that started it to all of the events leading up to now, TJC is hosting their third annual Arts Festival.

The Arts Festival started out as a nine-day event that would coincide with the release of *The Bell Tower Arts Journal* each spring, but now has turned into a month-long collaboration of the entire art department with the journal's release now on April 17.

"This is the third year for the TJC Arts Festival, and it just keeps getting better—thanks to our talented students and faculty," said Dean of Humanities, Communications, and Fine Arts Linda Gary. "This year, we have more than 30 events—concerts, exhibits, performances, guest speakers and more."

TJC isn't running this alone, though. The school has partnered with the Tyler Museum of Art which hosts several of the events that will take place. Every Wednesday in April, they will host the Coffee House events where anyone can go sip coffee, eat pastries and enjoy a concert for free.

The Tyler Museum of Art will be showing the Robert Langham Photography Exhibit, High School Art Exhibit and the East Meets West Exhibit throughout the entire month.

The Arts Festival kicks off with the 14th annual silent auction sponsored by and benefitting the Art Club.

Other events going on are 'Be a News Anchor' on April 11 from 2-4 p.m. in Potter 203 and 'Rock the Garden' at 10 a.m. between Potter and Gencov.

Notable events such as the Thunderdome

Department Chair Derrick White. "This idea was to bring an adrenaline rush into the visual arts and thus the annual art club Thunderdome competition was born. An art contest with only one winner, all the other contending art pieces are lavishly destroyed by the annihilators. It is a glorious event bringing groans, moans, cheers and tears."

"I have a great respect for all the departments involved in the Arts Festival and it is an honor to partner together and give such a huge cultural occasion to our community."

-Derrick White
Art Department Chair

are more anticipated than ever. The Thunderdome is an art competition that will be held on April 26 at noon in the Jenkins Courtyard.

The Thunderdome is not an everyday art competition. Students decide what art will be the winning piece by multiple elimination rounds, and those pieces that don't make it out of the round get demolished, literally.

"Bring your own tears," said Art

With extending the festival through the entire month, it coincides with International Day on April 18. To celebrate, Jolanda van den Berg will be speaking in the Wise Auditorium about her work with the Niños Foundation in Peru, a foundation she established in 1995. The foundation helps with the needs of children on the streets in Cusco.

Gary states that she loves every event that is held during the festival.

"I've never been to a TJC concert, exhibit or performance that wasn't professionally produced, top-notch and remarkable," said Gary. "We may not be the only ticket in town anymore, but we're still the best ticket in town."

White feels that it is a honor to collaborate as a whole for the festival.

"I love the sense of collaboration among the different departments," said White. "We were all doing these things already, April is just the month chosen to showcase them all together. It gives me and my art students a more conscious opportunity to participate and experience what other departments are doing. I have great respect for all the departments involved in the Arts Festival and it is an honor to partner together and give such a huge cultural occasion to our community."

For more information about the TJC Art Festival and the events being held, visit <https://www.tjc.edu/artsfestival>.

"I love the collaboration among the different departments."

-Derrick White
Art Department Chair

El Guapo Records strives to increase community involvement

Brianna Harmon
and **Rebecca Najera**

Tucked away downtown near The Lightbox Collective is El Guapo Records, a locally owned record store. While the shop may be hard to locate at first, one may find it's worth the search once stepping inside.

The owner, Aristeo Rodriguez, otherwise known as A-Rod, greets everyone that walks into his shop, providing a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. The orange and yellow walls are covered with art pieces created by local artists, while at the front of the shop, one could find local musicians' and artists' merchandise. Locals are able to showcase their work at the shop without paying a shelf or commission fee.

"That's another really big way to give back to the community and give back to these artists," said Rodriguez. "Say if your CD is seven bucks when it sells, you get seven bucks back. 90 percent of these artists, they are paying for their own stuff. It's expensive. I've been there and done that. I've been in the struggle."

Rodriguez feels that his shop provides opportunity to locals that they might not find anywhere else.

"It's my time to give back to them," said Rodriguez. "Nobody was really able to do that for me, so now that I have the opportunity to do that, it's a really huge goal."

Rodriguez has been involved in music just about all his life. From being a part of

his school's band program, to being in his own band, music has played a major part in making him into the man that he is. He's even been DJing since the late 90s.

"I still do a little bit of that, but here recently I've been pushing that all away to really focus on the community involvement we have going on here at the store," said Rodriguez. "I really want to be able to give back as much as I can."

Rodriguez feels that music plays an important role in everyone's life.

"Music drives people together. Music is what new friendships become. This guy here, Neil," Rodriguez gestured to a man with a brown beard and tattoos, "he's a rad dude. I consider him to be a friend; he's a friend of the shop. Him and I, we have so much in common together without ever knowing that we had anything in common because of music."

By connecting this way, Rodriguez feels that social barriers can be broken, making it easier to get to know other people.

"These guys come in, you become buds, you become friends; and it all started because of music," said Rodriguez.

Ian Power, a local musician and TJC alumni that participates in El Guapo's events, feels that the opportunities provided by the shop gives people the chance to embrace their creativity.

"People are told not to express themselves all the time and that is wrong,"

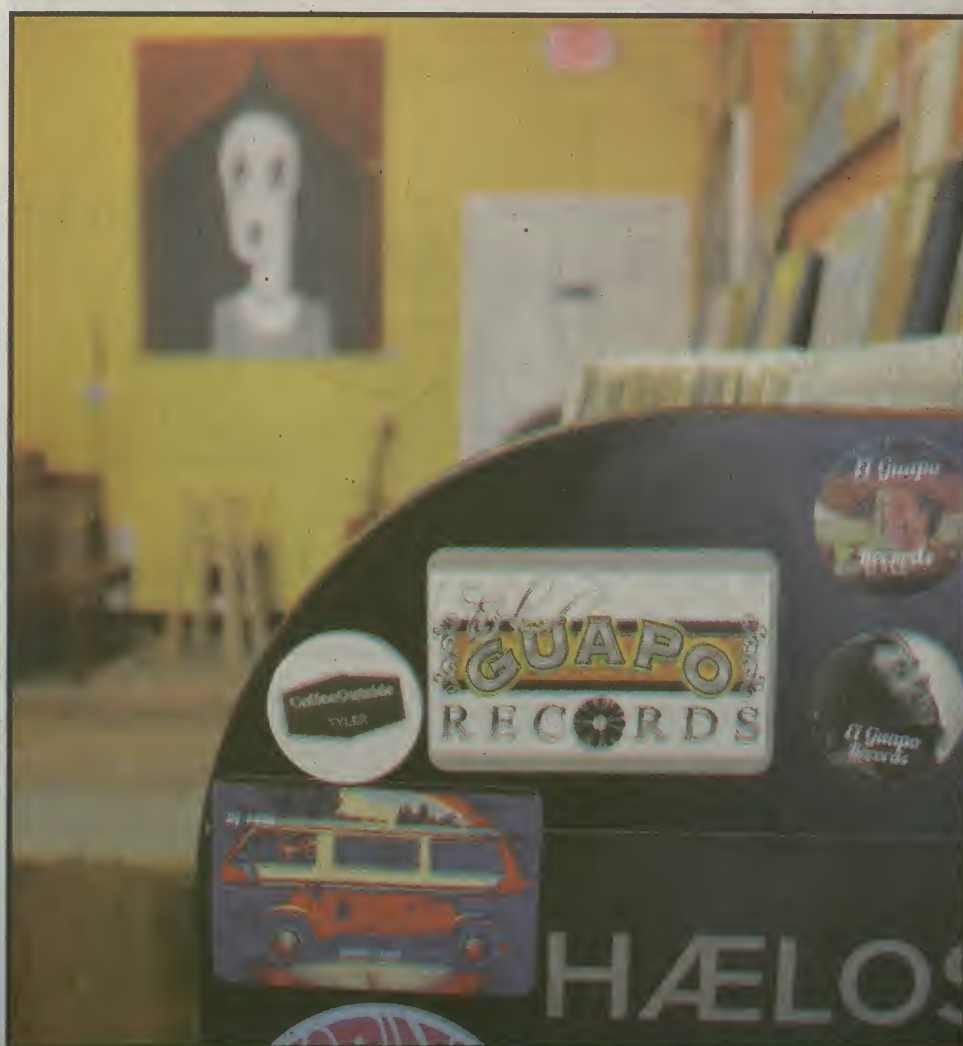


Photo by Rebecca Najera

A SIDE OF GUAP El Guapo Records is located at 257 S. Broadway Ave. and is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

GUAPO

—continued from page 6—

said Power. “El Guapo Records is working with a team of locals who want to cater to every outlet, whether it be music, arts, poetry or craftsmanship.”

Power has embraced the creative outlets provided by El Guapo by performing his music and attending Spoken Word, a poetry reading hosted by the shop.

“Creativity gives people a sense of meaning and let’s people express opinions and views on any part of life in a way that is a bit easier for people to grasp,” said Power. “For example, I can say ‘Yeah, I struggle with depression.’ People would be like, ‘Ah man, that dude is sad.’ But when I write a song with metaphors and eerie dark musical arrangements, it seems to hit home a bit more. [It’s] just the same with painters. They can truly shows their inner feelings on canvas.”

Locals have the chance to express their creativity in their own way by attending Spoken Word every other Wednesday.

“It’s poetry, it’s literature, all kinds of different stuff,” said Rodriguez. “We have comedians that come in and do different skits they practice.”

Spoken Word is free to the community

and is open to all ages. Sign up starts at 7 p.m. and readings begin at 7:30 p.m.

“All you have to do is show up and just do your thing,” said Rodriguez.

Locals also have the chance to practice their piano skills and guitar skills since the shop provides one for people to use while they’re there.

“We do things differently, so you know this isn’t your typical store,” said Rodriguez. “We have a piano in the back, we have a guitar. This place has turned into a practice room for people at times. So pretty much everyone is open with the way that we do things here.”

Another way El Guapo reaches out into the community is by participating in block parties. Just like Spoken Word, the block parties are free for all ages and typically take place near the end of each month.

“It’s a collaboration we do between all of us on this block. It’s not necessarily just me,” said Rodriguez. “The guys from Moon Rivers Naturals, 903 Handmade, East Texas Life Properties, the awesome dudes over at Lightbox Collective, also the guys from East Texas Brewing Company; we’re all collaborating together to bring these events

“...I can say ‘Yeah, I struggle with depression.’ People would be like, ‘Ah man, that dude is sad.’ But when I write a song with metaphors and eerie dark musical arrangements, it seems to hit home a bit more.”

—Ian Power
Local Musician

and buy records and buy a brand new record player for the first time. And then they go home and send me a post over Facebook and they’re like, ‘Thank you so much. We didn’t watch TV tonight. We had dinner, played some boardgames and listened to records. We’ve never done that,’” said Rodriguez.

Playing his part in helping families connect is what makes Rodriguez’s job all the more worthwhile.

“It’s huge because, you know, everything is cellphone driven,” said Rodriguez. “We don’t have Wi-Fi here. You don’t need it. This is a place for people to communicate.”

By not having Wi-Fi, Rodriguez believes that the communication between customers in his shop will grow.

“The friendships and the people that have met each other here in the shop have just been awesome,” said Rodriguez. “I mean, there isn’t a person that comes in here that you can’t talk to. That’s just how it is.”

El Guapo is always open to new ideas.

“There hardly isn’t anything I say no to, as long as it’s gonna submit an opportunity, it’s cool, it’s going to be respectful to the community and everybody’s going to be able to participate. I mean, why not?”



Photo by Rebecca Najera

ENDLESS CHOICES El Guapo Records provides several ways for people to embrace their creativity, whether it be through their music, the events it hosts or through Spoken Word poetry readings. The next Spoken Word will be Wednesday, April 5.

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Photo by Brianna Harmon

FOR THE GREATER GOOD Art student and art club member Jeri Hubbard works on her pinwheel for The Children’s Advocacy Center of Smith county. The Art Club paired with the center to design 30 pinwheels for child abuse awareness month in April.

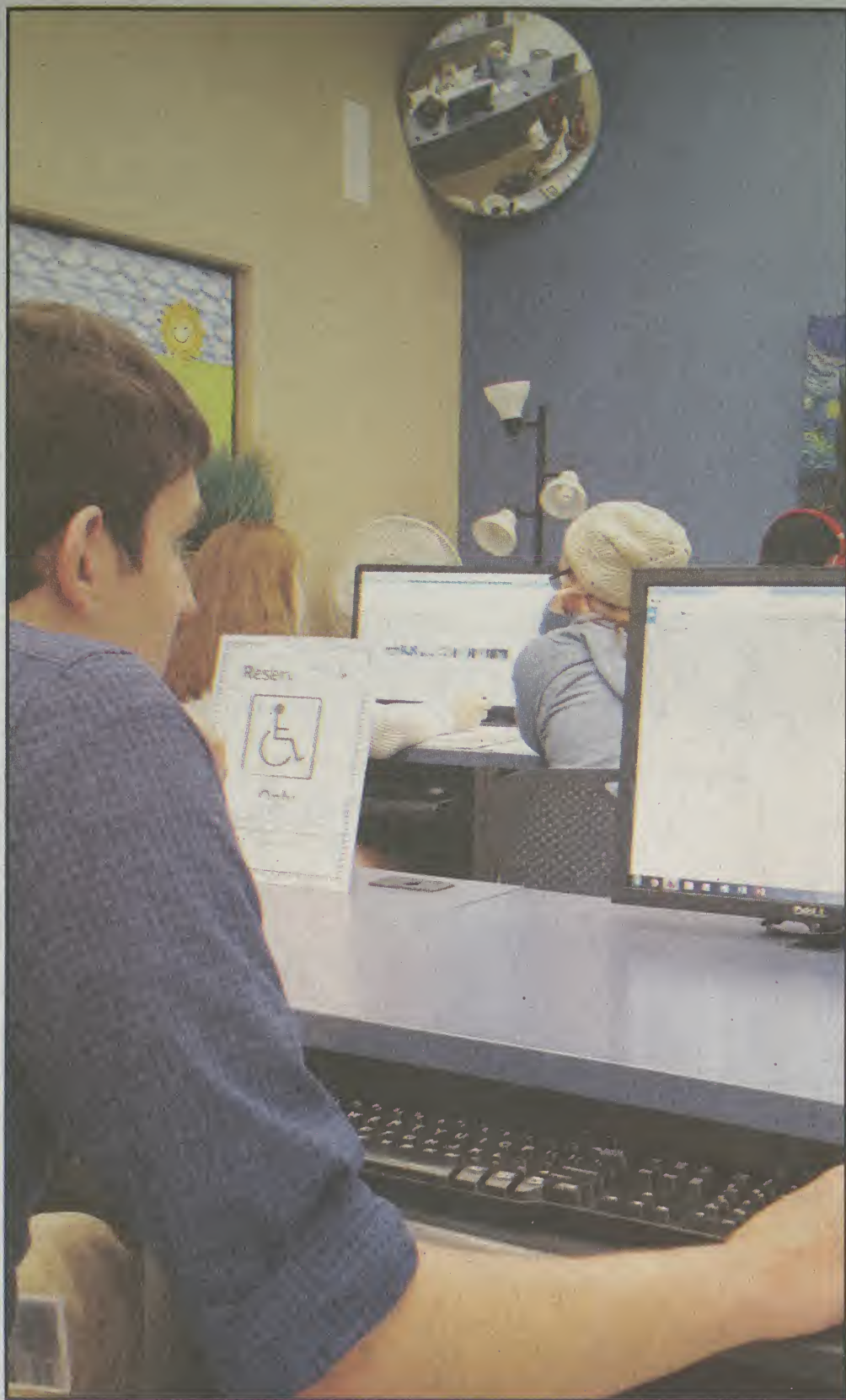


Photo by Austin Hall

HELP, WHEN YOU NEED IT The Tutoring Center is just one part of the Bounce Back program. Tutor William Goette awaits his next appointment on the second floor of Vaughn Library.

Bounce Back program offers a helping hand

Austin Hall
Student Life Editor

TJC Assistant Director of Housing Aukse Harris has taken it upon herself to encourage students whose grades are falling behind with a program called Bounce Back. The program was developed to support students as they work to improve their grades.

Many campus residents come to college unprepared and find themselves in trouble at the end of the semester when their grades are posted. Harris sends emails notifying campus residents that their GPA is below a 2.0, and because of it, they have been placed on housing academic probation. That means:

"...any violation of the Resident's Code of Conduct may result in removing your visitation privileges for the entire semester or immediate removal from on-campus housing," states Harris in the emails sent to residents.

The notifications are sent out to students as a wake-up call.

"When they receive that letter at home, they realize, 'Oh crap! This has not gone as well as I thought it would be,'" said Harris.

After Harris sent out the emails over winter break, she was inundated with students asking for help.

"Most of the students that I see are the ones who say, 'I just did not take things seriously first semester. I had too much fun and disappointed my parents,'" said Harris.

Harris is dedicated to helping struggling students who are willing to put in the work it takes to recover.

"If [there's] anything you need, and I mean anything, ask me. So as long as they are the ones who put an initiative to seek help, they will receive help," said Harris.

Due to the stricter grade requirements for campus residents implemented this year, it is more important than ever to maintain a high GPA. It is imperative that students get help, because consequences for bad grades go beyond academic achievement.

"It is a bigger picture that I see, because

a lot of these students have financial aid. And a lot of times I tell students, let's look at this, this way. You took financial aid, now you're on financial aid probation. One more semester you don't have 2.0; you're not gonna have financial aid. You're gonna have this debt to pay in six months after you leave. ... Yet you will not be able to pay because you cannot have a proper job," said Harris.

Harris also stated that the community as a whole also suffers because it is their tax money that provided the financial aid.

Retention is a high priority for the college, so they provide a plethora of services to help with academic success. Many students neglect to use these services even though they pay for them as a part of their tuition fees. Harris believes that students don't take advantage of the services because they are overwhelmed with the experience of being a freshman in college.

"Inside, you're a complete mess, but outside you have to present yourself as if you've got everything together. Which you don't; nobody does," said Harris.

The Bounce Back program simply emphasizes the use of resources already provided by the TJC campus. Those in Bounce Back are required to attend two writing center workshops and to use TJC's tutoring center, quest center and STEM center. Apart from getting tutoring and going to workshops Harris recommends going to advisors, peers and instructors for help.

"Talk to your instructor. Trust me, you need to talk to your instructor," said Harris.

By speaking to instructors and advisors, students fighting to recover their GPA may be presented with alternative options, such as grade replacement or 12-week, 8-week and 4-week courses.

There are resources at TJC that help get students back on their feet available to anybody and everybody. All students are encouraged to use the services provided. It could be just what students need to bounce back.

Professor shares humorous math presentation, cites *The Simpsons*

Austin Hall
Student Life Editor

Math is presented in a more palatable way at the Doh! Nuts math talk. Math Professor Jordan Hanke uses the hit TV show "*The Simpsons*" to share his enthusiasm for math and his love of the show with students.

"I try to introduce the students to something outside the classroom that's exciting. Something that's a little bit more approachable, because I know most students for some reason don't like math, but math can be really fun," said Hanke.

The talk consists of clips from the "*The Simpsons*" TV show that use math in a humorous way. According to the presentation, most of the writers for the early seasons of the show came from Harvard, many with math and

science degrees.

Many find math frustrating, so the talk is a good way to find the silver lining when it comes to taking math classes. The talk is light-hearted and full of jokes and puns. One of the attendees wore a shirt that said "I don't always make diagrams but venn I do..." with an illustration of a Venn Diagram on it.

A popular sentiment among young students is to ask why math class is necessary, often claiming it will never be used after college.

"I think people will understand math when they need to. When it really comes down to it. Hey! You're balancing your checkbook. Hey! All the sudden, adding and subtracting and carrying things over matters," said Hanke.

Hanke explained that having math capabilities is important in the market place. For example, when someone receives a loan,

sometimes they aren't aware of how much they are actually paying for that loan. Having a basic understanding of mathematic principles can help avoid getting ripped off.

Math helps to clarify the world around us. Knowing the difference between median and average can completely alter a person's perception of an issue. Hanke uses an example from a book he recommends, titled "*Naked Statistics*" to illustrate this point: Ten guys are in a bar. The average income for people in that bar is \$30,000. Then Bill Gates walks in, suddenly the average income for people in that bar is \$4 billion.

"Anything that has a pull one way or the other you tend to wanna use the median, because it does split it down 50/50," said Hanke.

Students enjoy the snacks and comedy while learning.

"I learned that [math] is much more important than I thought it was," said Business Administration major Nicole Helmuth.

Regardless of whether or not students see math as a priority, many have a difficult time learning it. Hanke's advice to students is to go back to the basics.

"Practice. Unfortunately, there's no magic pill. I wish there was. I would say get away from the calculator. Get away from that thing. Write everything out. There is nothing we do in class that you cannot find online. ... You've got to practice, practice, practice, practice," said Hanke.

Although some may not like that advice, Hanke says that athletes practice all the time without questioning to increase skill level.

The events returned by popular demand and took place March 6 and 23.



Photo by Austin Hall

SPRING HAS SPRUNG Art students Lynn Turner and Andres Breffitt enjoy the first day of spring. The vernal equinox happened at exactly the same time around the world on Monday, March 20.

FAWN

continued from page 1

including English Professor Joan Bruckwiki. "I found her to be wise beyond her years," said Bruckwiki. "She had an impressive vocabulary and a strong capacity for critical thought. The other students enjoyed listening to her, and they seemed to value her opinions."

One occasion that Bruckwiki remembers well is when Fawn spoke about the Black Lives Matter movement.

"Fawn offered an analogy, comparing the Black Lives Matter movement with the ecological movement to save tropical rainforests," said Bruckwiki. "She said that when we say, 'Save the rainforests,' we are not implying that other trees—the Piney Woods, for example — do not matter. I thought this was a clever analogy, and I admired it very much. I have repeated it on several occasions."

Bruckwiki feels that Fawn had great potential and is saddened by her passing.

"I am heartbroken that her vibrant, intelligent life was cut short prematurely, and that we will never know what contributions she could have made to this world," said Bruckwiki.

Freshman Jacob Verner admired Fawn for who she was and everything she stood for.

"In some ways, I would say that Fawn was an ideal version of myself or someone I would have wanted to be," said Verner. "I've always wanted to carry myself as someone who wants to be perceived as intelligent or kind; all those things. Fawn just radiated all those things."

Verner believes that Fawn was an extraordinary person.

"She was way beyond intelligent. She was very kind and compassionate. She had a very witty personality," said Verner.

Verner was 16 when he first met Fawn. Although she was a shy person, the two quickly formed a bond after meeting each other.

"She didn't like to open herself up to

people, but when she did, you could tell that she had a love for people," said Verner. "She always treated me with respect and I felt special when I would talk to her. She was just that kind of person where you'd always want to be around her. She just made you feel calm."

At her memorial service, Verner had heard someone refer to Fawn as an angel walking on Earth.

"I don't mean to give her any divinity," said Verner, "[but] my friends kind of referred to her as a goddess in some way. She was like a template for how to live a life. She never spoke ill of anyone. She always had something positive to say. I never heard one negative word of her ever."

Over time, the two lost some connection.

"We kinda disconnected for a while and I didn't really get to talk to her as much towards the end of her life, and I remember in the weeks [prior] I used to think that I had missed Fawn," said Verner. "I missed hanging out with her and just being around her. I really regret that I never tried to reconnect with her."

McFarland feels the same way.

"I thought about her every day before this happened, you know," said McFarland. "I just never talked to her. ... and I kinda regret not messaging her at all. I think about her every day."

If given the chance to speak to her again, Verner would explain to her how much she meant to people.

"I would just tell her that she meant so much more to so many people than she could have ever imagined," said Verner. "She always had issues with her self-esteem and just how she perceived herself, but people loved her. People in her family, people outside of her family. She was just, in many ways, like an integral part of Van's community. Every moment with Fawn was just something beyond normal experience. I'd just tell her she's loved."

bag, it's mine."

Chefs are supposed to meet at the main lobby of their dorms at 6:30 p.m. and wait for instructions from Patti Light. Vaughn and Holley Hall had their contest on Tuesday, March 21 and Ornelas Hall on Wednesday, March 22. The following schedules for the next halls to compete are as followed: Bateman Hall- Monday, March 27; Wesley and Hudnall Hall- Tuesday, March 28; Claridge and Sledge Hall- Wednesday, March 29.

If interested in participating, email rha@tjc.edu for more information or go to the housing office to sign up.

SANITY

continued from page 2

coffee in hand, not looking up but speaking furiously into a Bluetooth headphone like a frazzled wedding planner, but I soon realized that didn't have to be the case. Instead, I bought a spiral bound notebook and sectioned off days and months, and even kept a section for my beloved to-do lists. Having a planner that operates in a way that compliments how I work helps keep me motivated. Though I do sometimes look like a frazzled wedding planner (if it's a particularly busy week) having my ducks in a row truly allows me to be relaxed moving from one task to another. Depending on the time of year I will plan every detail of every day, from class, to lunch, to coffee, to rehearsal, and so on. I have a running to do list that coincides with my planner so that I can divide the work amongst the free time in my day. I even use different highlighters to color-code my planner. This helps when I'm in a rush, since I can just quickly glance at my planner and know what's next (i.e.,

school stuff is yellow, errands are orange, etc.)

I know these are simple tips, but they're simple tips in the right direction. Once you get started with discipline and organization it gets easier to create a pattern for your own personal success. And if you're like me, it's somewhat addicting to create your own method for getting things done, which allows you to make more stuff happen. So, go out and get yourself a planner and some highlighters. Start filling out your schedule as precisely as you can. While you're at it, flip to April 26 -30 and pick a day to come see me in Peter and The Starcatcher at ye old TJC (it's free if you bring your TJC ID!!)

Now, I'll leave you with a thought: it's good to stay organized and on top of your assignments, but it's not good to be overwhelmed. Make sure you know your limits before you take on more than you can handle. Practice safe organization. Best of luck to you on your time-management endeavors, and happy planning!

FUTURE

continued from page 2

reminding myself of this advice I received a while ago. Not everyone is on the same time clock; not everyone is taking the same path. While some of your friends might be heading in a separate direction, don't expect to follow them. Your path might just be leading you elsewhere. And above all, nothing is for certain, so try to keep a positive mindset throughout your endeavors.

It's taken a lot of practice for me to finally trick my mind into calming down. I know that it's hard when everything in life seems chaotic. But you've got this, you're at the halfway point and the semester is almost over. Whether you are graduating this spring or returning next fall to continue your education, don't give up on your dreams and goals. It might be very challenging at some points because you think life is against you when stress has built up. My trick is to take deep breaths (or scream, depending on how stressful the situation), and

focus my mind on positive thoughts rather than the negative anxiety the stress is causing.

Trust me when I say that it's not easy, especially if you're going through a lot of personal issues right now that you have to sort out. I used to be unable to handle the stress to the point where I would just want to hide all the time. That's the easy way out, and I realized that you'll miss out on so many positive things if you take the easy way. The fact that you're doing everything you can in school right now and still maintaining your GPA should be enough to make you proud. I know I'm proud of you.

So keep pressing forward, despite the looming threat of finals right around the corner. Make your mark by not giving up, and don't worry too much about the future. Remember that you're here at Tyler Junior College for a reason and it's going to promise good things if you continue.

CHOPPED

continued from page 1

will be 10 chefs, one from each hall. They will be challenged to do the 'traditional chopped chef' and prepare an appetizer, an entree and dessert.

"The first two times we'll cut four chefs, so the desert round will determine who wins," said Light.

Crossroads was the first dorm to compete, on Monday, March 20. Resident Carlos Johnson was the winner of the round.

"Actually, my dad is a chef. He owns a restaurant in Troup Road, Louisiana called Crescent City Bistro. I've been in the culinary arts my whole life, and I felt like this contest was for me," said Johnson. "It's in the



TJC

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Campus Police: 903-510-2222

Anonymous Title IX Hotline: 903-533-5599

Title IX Coordinator: 903-510-2186

East Texas Crisis Center: 903-595-5591 or Toll Free: 800-333-0358

Andrews Center: 903-597-1351 (suicide)

Salvation Army: 903-592-4361

Tyler Junior College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. Complete information is available at www.tjc.edu.

Student/Employee Lanyard Policy:

1. Lanyards must be worn around the neck while on campus, and the ID card must be clearly visible at all times, unless it should be removed for safety reasons or an approved ADA variance.
2. Any lanyard is acceptable, but it must be similar in design and worn in the same manner as the official college lanyard. The color of the lanyard is not critical.
3. No one will be allowed into class without wearing his or her ID/lanyard.
4. Students who do not have their ID/Lanyards may pick up a Day Pass at the Campus Safety Office, Campus Safety Substation located at the Rogers Student Center or from a TJC Ambassador. The first Day Pass each semester is free of charge. For all subsequent Day Passes a \$5.00 cost recovery charge will be billed to the student's account.
5. Employees may obtain a Day ID/Lanyard from their respective Dean's or Director's office.



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Beauty and the Beast

Movie Review

Brianna Harmon
Arts Editor

Growing up, every kid was in love with Disney. Cinderella, Snow White, Toy Story, The Jungle Book and so many more are movies that, as an adult, I still go back and watch because they were just that good.

Movies that were loved so much to the point of obsession, every little boy wanted a Woody doll and every girl dreamed of being a Disney princess.

I was very hesitant when I heard that the classics I fell in love with as a child were going to be remade into live-action movies. Immediately I asked myself, would it even be possible to make anything better than the original?

Disney remade Cinderella in 2015, and The Jungle Book in 2016 and now Beauty and the Beast this year.

And I must say, Bill Condon did a remarkable job.

It's hard to remake a movie that is better than the original, but it came pretty darn close.

Casting Emma Watson as Belle, Luke Evans as Gaston, and Emma Thompson as Mrs. Potts are only a few of the many things that were done right in the film.

The film is perfect for people who grew up watching Disney, but it also speaks to the younger generations with the magical feel that it gives off.

But for the ones who refuse to see it because the film features gay people, that's ridiculous. I will say this once: if the reason you won't go see it is because

of a small scene then you are truly missing out.

Lefou is Gaston's loyal sidekick, but in a scene in the movie, it can be portrayed as if Lefou has feelings for Gaston. You can take the scene in two different ways; the first being that he flat out has feelings for Gaston, or that they have been friends for a long time and that he is just a loyal sidekick. But if it comes down to either one, why does it matter?

Each scene was constructed to perfection as well as the costumes that were worn, from Emma Watson singing 'Belle' while walking through the village in the opening scene with just a beautiful array of colors and her naturally perky personality to Beast's castle which had a "goth" feel to it.

Being able to transform the original animation to a live-action can be very difficult and, if not done right, it can ruin the film altogether. But the transition was done very smoothly, it was not too cartoony at all but it was just enough for Cogsworth, Lumière, Mrs. Potts, Wardrobe to be recognized.

The entire movie was pulled together for me by Alan Menken who composed the music for the film. Menken has composed the music for multiple Disney movies and knows what it takes to continue to flow of the world of Disney. There were the classic songs from the original but Menken weaved in new songs as well and with that 'there may be something there that wasn't there before.'

The film is simply 'a tale as old as time, a song as old as rhyme, Beauty and the Beast.'

Open mic night creating opportunity

Juls offering venue and audience for artists of all levels

Veronica Perez
Staff Writer

Many aspire to make music not just a hobby, but a way of life. The exposure one needs to expand the skills of their talent can be rather elusive if they don't know where to start. This is where Tyler's Juls Restaurant, Lounge & Café's open mic comes into play.

"At Juls, there are a lot of people putting their toes in the water, and a lot of newcomers and people that have been playing in Tyler for years, but haven't really been doing their own stuff for a while," said Logan Strong, a regular performer at Juls.

Strong has been performing there semi-regularly for the past two years, typically in tow with his other band mates from BABE. As a previous TJC student, Strong is no stranger to the struggle of finding a relaxing place to socialize and a platform around Tyler that is as constructive as it is encouraging.

"There is a really healthy mixed environment of people that are here to learn, and people that are here to teach," said Strong.

The music portion, however, comes effortlessly to Strong. As a theater major, Strong composed, wrote and recorded the music for TJC's production of "Lie of the Mind" in 2012. A few years later, he began searching for an area in the Tyler community to play music. From performing in Walmart parking lots to fighting the traffic noise of whizzing cars outside of FRESH, the platform he was looking for just did not seem to be there. But open mic nights and bookings at Juls became a place to showcase his music and network with seasoned musicians. There, both pats on the back and constructive criticism were appreciated by all.

Americana musician Colton Higgins also shared this opinion of the venue. Juls

provided him with a sense of confidence that he otherwise would have struggled with immensely.

"It's much easier to go for a high note that you may not hit, when you're surrounded

"At Juls, there are a lot of people putting their toes in the water, and a lot of newcomers and people that have been playing in Tyler for years, but haven't really been doing their own stuff for a while,"

-Logan Strong
Musician

by people who will applaud you for your effort anyways," said Higgins. He credits the connections and opportunities he has made all over East Texas to this Tyler restaurant.

Many local artists have Douglas Jay Boyd to thank as the backbone to this musical communion. In September of 2015, Boyd took over booking talent for Juls, and soon began making a transition from cover bands to exclusively original artists.

"I was a professional musician for ten years, so I know the struggle," said Boyd. "There are a lot of great cover bands, but there is something to be said for putting your own words, pen to paper, and being able to express your own thoughts and feelings over whatever it is you're writing about."

Even when it comes to booking acts for a night, Boyd is very methodical. As a general rule, an artist will not be booked within the last six to eight weeks since the last time they played at Juls. This is done to make sure the artist does not lose their shine with the audience that clamors to the lounge every week.

If there is a college crowd looking for fun, or an artist striving for a platform and community, Boyd wants to facilitate that. Attending open mic night and most bookings require no cover charge. Open mic night is every Thursday at 8:30 p.m., with sign-ups beginning at 7:30 p.m. If one is interested in being booked by Juls, they can email Boyd at booking@juls903.com.



Photo by Marshall Cearfoss

PATIO VIBES Juls provides a relaxed venue for performers and community members just finding a bite to eat.

PETS

continued from page 1

game that welcomes everyone. From those who don't know how to throw, to some of the best players in the game today," said Paul Owen, the president of the Rose City Golf Club.

As the only brick-and-mortar, no-kill shelter in East Texas and sponsor of the event, Pets Fur People is a non-profit organization, supported only by tax-

deductible public contribution and funds and receive no government support.

Admission is free to the event, and all funds raised from the event will go to support the Humane Society's Pets Fur People. More details on the Tyler Azalea Disc Dog and Disc Golf Championship or how to volunteer with the organization can be found at www.petsfurpeople.org.

6th ANNUAL

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Wednesday - "Winner Wednesday"
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and a free 50 Gallon Challenge lanyard
Rogers Student Center, Apache Rooms
and mobile location at Intramural Field
All donors will receive double entries
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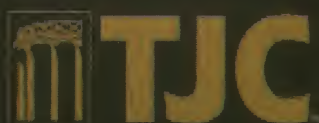
Thursday - "Thirsty Thursday"
Donate and receive a FREE Starbucks gift card.
Rogers Student Center, Apache Rooms
Mobile location: Fifth Street and Baxter

Friday - "Frozen Friday"
Donate and receive a FREE Dairy Queen Blizzard.
Rogers Student Center, Apache Rooms
Mobile location: Fifth Street and Baxter

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events

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p.11

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 25

- Men's Tennis Game - Murphy Tennis Center - 10 a.m.
- Women's Tennis Game - Murphy Tennis Center - 10 a.m.
- ETSO Invitation to Dance - UT Tyler Cowan Center - 7:30 p.m.
- Vocal Scholarship Auditions - Wise Cultural Arts 201 - 10 a.m.
- TJC and UT Tyler Combined Choral Concert - First Presbyterian Church - 6 p.m.

Monday, March 27

- 50 Gallon Challenge - Movie Monday - Rogers Student Center, 2nd Floor - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Be the Match Donor Registration Drive - RSC - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 28

- FAFSA Workshop - White Administrative Building - 2-6 p.m.
- 50 Gallon Challenge - Taco Tuesday - Rogers Student Center, 2nd Floor - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- PTK General Meeting - Nacho Night - Apache

Room 4 - 5 p.m.

- Be the Match Donor Registration Drive - RSC - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

- 50 Gallon Challenge - Winner Wednesday - Apache Rooms - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- The DrumBeat Broadcast - Facebook Live - 6 p.m.
- Be the Match Donor Registration Drive - RSC - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 30

- 50 Gallon Challenge - Thirsty Thursday - Apache Rooms - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Apache Belle Spring Show "Love Train" - Wise Auditorium - 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Be the Match Donor Registration Drive - RSC - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday, March 31

- 50 Gallon Challenge - Frozen Friday - Apache 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Apache Belle Spring Show "Love Train" - Wise Auditorium - 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 1

- Apache Belle Spring Show "Love Train" - Wise Auditorium - 2-4 p.m. & 7:30-9:30 p.m.

- Venue - Jean Brown Theatre - 9 p.m.

- Canned Food Drive begins

Monday, April 3

- Art Club Silent Auction - Jenkins Hall, art wing - all day

Tuesday, April 4

- Art Club Silent Auction - Jenkins Hall, art wing - all day

Wednesday, April 5

- Art Club Silent Auction - Jenkins Hall, art wing - all day

- Coffee House - Guitar Ensemble - TMA Lobby - noon

Thursday, April 6

- Art Club Silent Auction - Jenkins Hall, art wing - closes at 2 p.m.
- Jovanni-Rey de Pedro, guest pianist - Jean Brown Theatre - 7:30 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

APACHE CHIEFS EARN TOP HONORS

Apache Chiefs took top honors in the National Orientation Directors Association's Region IV Conference held in Dallas March 4 weekend.

LADY APACHES GO DANCING ONE NIGHT

Women's basketball doesn't make it out of the first round of the National Tournament and falls 71-63 against Walters State Community College.

APACHE GOLF REMAINS NO. 1 IN NATION

Apache Golf remains at the No. 1 spot in most recent NJCAA Division II Coaches Poll third straight stint.

APACHE PUNCH SUCCESSFUL AT SHOW

The Apache Punch indoor drumline took home first place after competing in the WGI finals in Dallas.

ART PROFESSOR WINS ART SHOW

Art Department Chair Derrick White wins "best in show" for his piece "Mock King Bird" at opening of Gallery Main Street's "Things with Wings" exhibit.

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Honors director impacts both students and faculty

Dave Funk's compassion and sincerity touches the lives of those around him

Rebecca Najera
Editor-in-Chief

The clicks of keyboards and the faint mumble of voices echo off the light brown walls of TJC's honors lounge. The smell of coffee and fresh Chick-Fil-A fill the room as more and more students start to make their way to the lounge located on the third floor of Rogers Student Center. Among the group of students, David Funk, the director of the honors program, enters wearing the crooked grin that seems to be permanently glued to his face.

The students already sitting down at tables start to perk up as Funk enters the room.

"Hello, Taylor," he says to the girl sitting behind the reception desk, a smile stretching across her face.

Other students greet Funk as he walks past them, his half-smile becoming full as he greets them back, each by name. The dullness of the brown walls and dark couches seem to diminish as Funk and his brightness make their way across the room to his office.

"Professor Funk," says one honors student. "I have a question."

Without hesitation, Funk makes his way over to assist the student.

"He's compassionate for other people. You can tell he genuinely cares about the students he works with," said freshman, Jerri White. "He wants to help anyone he can and takes everyone into consideration whenever he makes decisions."

Funk is going on his second year as the honors director and has been working as the ceramics professor since 2009. Over the years, both students and faculty have gained an uncommon, great respect for him.

"I hear students talking about him and usually they're talking about him with praise," said art professor Paul Jones. "He tries to greet everyone in the room. He's really polite and he usually has something funny to say."

After greeting everyone he can, Funk makes his way to his office, located in the back corner of the honors lounge.

"He's the hardest worker I've seen in a long time," said sociology professor, Ryan Button. "One of the aspects of being a great leader is knowing when you need to get up and motivate people, and second [is] the example that you set is the standard everyone is going to follow."

Before the start of the fall 2015 semester, the previous honors director, TJ McLemore, announced that he was taking a new teaching position at another college, leaving the position as honors director open. When Button was informed of this, his first concern was who was going to fill McLemore's position. After meeting Funk, however, he knew that they had found the right man to take over.

"He shares the vision, you know, that was kinda established here. This was the guy that was going to see things through," said Button. "That's how I kinda got to meet Funk. It happened within minutes. I remember looking at TJ like, 'What do I have to do to get him here?'"

Since becoming the honors director, Funk's workload has increased. Not only does he have to worry about the

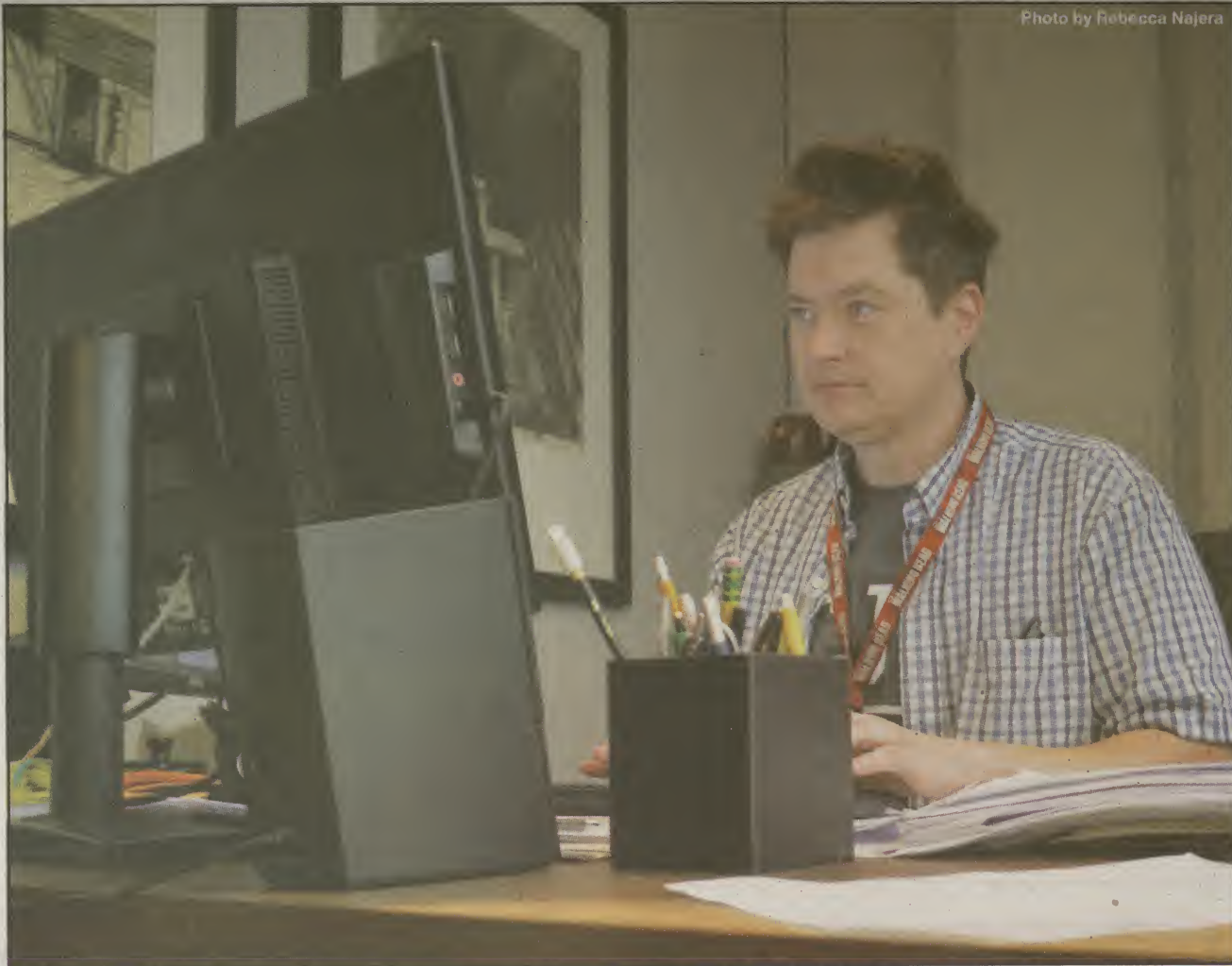


Photo by Rebecca Najera

WORK BY DAY Honors Director, Dave Funk, works in his office located on the third floor of Rogers Student Center Monday, March 20.

students he has in his art classes, but he has to keep up with the hundreds of students in the honors program. Students in the honors program have to maintain a GPA of 3.3 or higher and must take a certain amount of honors courses depending on which path they decide to take in the program. Students also have to earn a certain amount of honors points, either by attending community events or performing community service. Although it may be difficult to keep up with each student, faculty and students feel that he handles it well.

"I think he's excellent in his role as director of the honors program. He brings an enthusiasm and intelligence to what he does," said Art Department Chair Derrick White. "He has a tremendous way of connecting with his students. He's easy to talk to, he's down to earth and he never loses that kind of enthusiastic tone or passion in his voice."

Many believe that it's Funk's passion that drives him. "To hold this type of job, you have to be passionate," said Button. "The way the students look back at him, it's admiration, it's respect. And I can only assume it's with the faculty too."

Through his work in the art department and directing the honors program, Funk has left an impression on just about everyone he's come across.

"[I admire] his sensitivity to everything," said art professor, Philana Pace. "People, the planet, little things like flowers; just everything. He's a very sensitive person."

After hearing about a shooting that took place on a college campus one day, Pace was left in a worried state.

"I was having a little bit of a hard day and [Funk] came over and gave me a big hug," said Pace. "He kinda petted me on the head and said 'everything is going to be okay,' and I knew it was. He's real sweet."

Overall, it's Funk's love and compassion that leaves a lasting impression on those around him.

"He's a great educator, he's able to take the information that needs to be discussed in the class and really break it down on an individual level per student on the way that they need to learn it," said Derrick White. "He really has a really strong human compassion to care about the students and care about their success on a very personal level."

The door to Funk's office clicks behind him as he makes his way back through the honors lounge, once again, wearing that signature half-smile of his.

"He's taken this place and transformed it to fit his passion, to fit his vision," said Button. "And I'm glad that I share that vision with him."

Director of Admissions remembers her 20 years of TJC

Aji Sakho
Staff Writer

Currently the director of the admissions department, Nidia Hassan began working with TJC as student assistant during her college days proving to be a true member of Apache Nation.

Graduating Henderson High School in May of 1997 and applying to TJC the same year, Hassan will be acknowledging her 20 years of involvement with the college in fall 2017.

"I do remember coming to the TJC orientation session and [getting] everything taken care of ... it was pretty smooth ... I picked up my classes, met with an advisor which I still remember her name ... she's not here, but she was great," said Hassan.

She began her classes in Jenkins Aug. 24, 1997, as a business administration major, still unaware of her future affiliation with the college.

"I went to look for an on-campus job, went over to do an interview...and [the financial aid office] actually told me that they had a space here at the admissions office so I came over ... took the opening and have been here ever since," she said.

Hassan has worked as a part-time staff member and as a full-time employee, admissions recruiter and International coordinator and has appreciated each position.

"I've enjoyed all of them differently. The admissions recruiter allowed me to travel. ... I

was very young, I was 23 years old, so enjoyed it a lot. I enjoyed meeting new people, meeting new places," she said.

Apart from her early achievements, Hassan's coworkers also admire her other qualities.

"The most interesting thing about her is [that] she hasn't let where she is now interfere with where she came from. Just because of where she is now, she doesn't have her nose far up in the air. She still has her roots and her values. She's traveled so much around [and] seen a lot of things," said Glenda Stewart, administrative assistant.

Being able to persevere at challenging situations also made her appreciate each job more and more.

"Learning how to deal with immigration, embassies and councillors and dealing with expiration dates and passports [was] a whole new world for me... it was very challenging, but also very rewarding when I finally got into the meetings with the students and listening to the stories, listening to the struggles and how they sacrifice so much and then," said Hassan.

Her colleagues also see her as quite the constructive organizer.

"She is very detail oriented, everything has to be neat, especially when it [came] to recruiting. I always enjoyed seeing [the way] she set up the tables when she used to be a recruiter because everything was perfect," said Daisy Larue,

coordinator of international student admissions and recruiter.

Her coworkers are also very comfortable around her.

"She's very professional, but yet she's very understanding. Even though she's stern with you, she still has that demeanor where you know you can smile, you can laugh, you can talk, you can be yourself with her," said Stewart.

Hassan does the most she can to keep the recruited students interested in continuing their education at TJC. One of the ways she achieves this is by being the sponsor of the Hispanic Student Organization, which will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary.

"The best way that I found was having an organization where they could connect with other students in their own culture, their own language and they can feel proud to be Hispanic, feel proud to share their culture and feel that they have somebody that could connect with them in that angle," she said.

Lifetime friendships were made in this organization, stories were shared; even a couple got married.

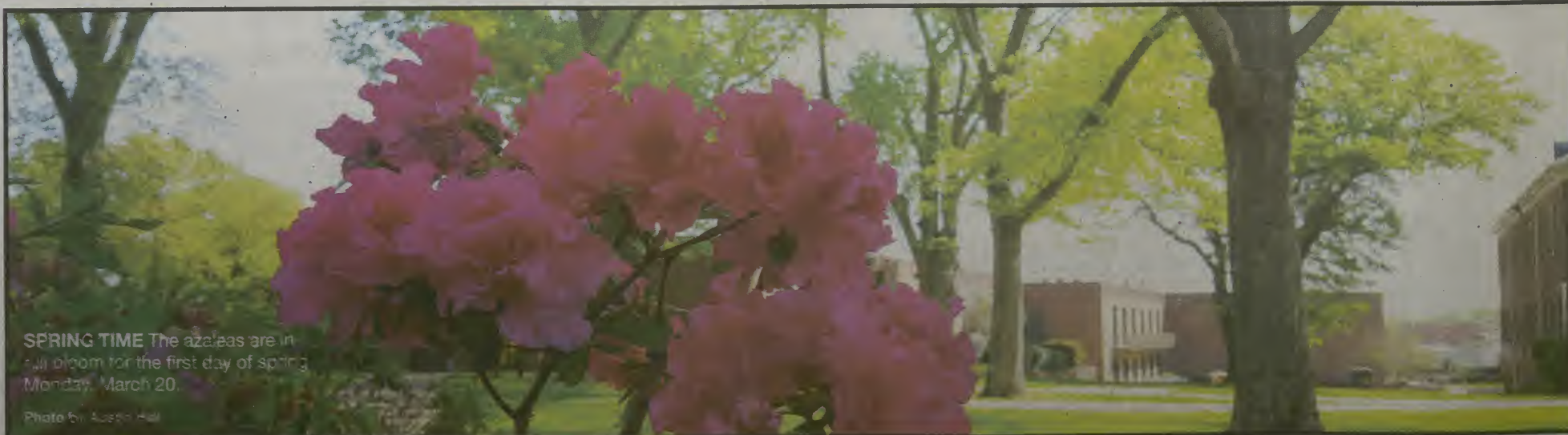
"With her Hispanic association, she's always on the go, very active and [if] there are special programs that we have [such as] preview day or college fairs, anything that we do here in the office, she [is] so passionate about getting it done and doing it right," said Larue.

Throughout the years Hassan has been involved with TJC, she has witnessed great changes.

"I started here when they were celebrating the 75th anniversary and I never expected to be here when it was the 90th anniversary, so that was really cool... and to see the growth in the population in the school, how many students have now enrolled, we had more traditional students and now we have a mix of traditional, non traditional, returning adults. ... to see that opportunity grow for those people, ... I think that adds to the culture on-campus and that helps enhance their experience," she said.



Nidia Hassan
Admissions Director



SPRING TIME The azaleas are in full bloom for the first day of spring Monday, March 20.

Photo by Aji Sakho